

## THE JOINT PLAN

### WHAT IS A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN / GENERAL PLAN?

Redwood National and State Parks in extreme northwestern California consist of four units — Redwood National Park, which is a federal park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS), and three state parks — Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park (see Region and Vicinity maps) — which are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). Together these parks, in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, encompass some 105,516 acres. Guidance is needed for managing the parks. The national park is required to prepare a general management plan; the state parks are required to prepare a general plan. The purpose of a joint federal-state plan is to provide a clearly defined, coordinated direction for resource preservation and visitor use and a basic foundation for decision making and managing these four parks.

Although the federal requirements for the general management plan differ somewhat from the state requirements for general plans, this joint general management plan / general plan (hereafter referred to as the joint plan) is being developed through cooperative efforts between the federal and state agencies in an effort to manage this complex of parks as a whole. This joint plan is being developed with a joint environmental impact statement / environmental report and in consultation with the interested public. The joint plan will be adopted by NPS leadership and the State Park and Recreation Commission after adequate analysis of the benefits, environmental impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action (see the cost analysis details in appendixes D and E).

The focus of the joint plan will be on *why* the parks were established and *what* resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time. The joint plan will

take a long-range view, which may be many years into the future when dealing with time-frames of natural and cultural processes. The joint plan will consider the parks in their full ecological and cultural contexts — as units of the national and state park systems and as parts of the surrounding ecosystem and region. The connections among the various programs and management zones in the parks are being identified, thus helping to avoid the potential for solving problems in one area but creating new problems in another as a result of not fully considering the broader implications of a specific decision.

The joint plan will constitute the first phase of tiered planning and decision making. The steps involved in this planning process are illustrated in the following chart. This document completes step 4. Because this joint plan is relatively general, more detailed, site-specific analyses of specific proposals and alternatives in the approved plan would be required before undertaking any additional major federal or state actions.

### STATE PARK POLICY DECLARATIONS

The *California Public Resources Code* (sec. 5002.2) requires that state park general plans contain certain elements and declarations. In accordance with that requirement, this joint plan establishes general management policies for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Their classification as state parks by the California State Park and Recreation Commission sets general management policies as provided for in section 5019.53 et seq., *California Public Resources Code*:

State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such

<b>DONE TO DATE</b>	<b>THE PLANNING PROCESS STEPS</b>
	Note: Opportunities for public input continue throughout the entire process.
✓	<b>① Gather data and determine issues and concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assemble information to describe the parks' existing conditions.</li> <li>• Identify and analyze issues and concerns related to the parks' environment, management, and visitor uses, as well as those related to local communities and the region.</li> </ul>
✓	<b>② Develop the parks' purpose and significance and goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refamiliarize ourselves with the legislative purposes of the parks.</li> <li>• Document the elements that make the parks uniquely significant.</li> <li>• Develop goals and objectives.</li> </ul>
✓	<b>③ Develop and analyze management alternatives for the parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a range of development and management alternatives for the parks.</li> <li>• Analyze the impacts of each alternative.</li> <li>• Identify mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
✓	<b>④ Prepare a public review draft general management plan / general plan / environmental impact statement / environmental impact report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute draft to organizations, agencies, and individuals for their review and comment</li> <li>• Hold public meetings.</li> </ul>
	<b>⑤ Prepare final general management plan / general plan / environmental impact statement / environmental impact report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the plan / environmental impact statement/report as needed, based on public comments and other relevant information.</li> <li>• Distribute final plan to organizations, agencies, and individuals.</li> <li>• Hold California State Park and Recreation Commission public hearing.</li> </ul>
	<b>⑥ Publish a record of decision / notice of determination</b>
	<b>⑦ Begin plan implementation</b>

values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of such ecological regions of California as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore,

protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

All elements required to be included in state park general plans are contained in this document. The statement of purpose for Redwood National and State Parks as set forth in this joint plan serves as the declared purpose for the three included state parks. The management of Redwood National and State Parks will be consistent with the requirements established for classified state parks. Further,

the management zones, goals, objectives, and actions contained in this joint document serve as resource management policy as well as give general guidance for land use, facilities, concessions, and operation of the state parks as required by law.

## PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THIS JOINT PLAN

The 1980 *General Management Plan* for Redwood National Park assumed that the three state parks, which were already within the congressionally designated national park boundary, would be transferred through donation to the National Park Service. This did not occur, which nullified portions of the 1980 management plan that applied to state park lands and meant that portions of the management plan that applied to state park lands were never implemented. The state parks produced their own *State Redwoods Parks, General Plan* in 1985. In 1994 the National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation signed a memorandum of understanding (see appendix A) and agreed to cooperate in managing the four parks to improve the protection of the resources, better serve visitors, and realize fiscal benefits from reducing duplicated services. Both the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation agreed that a new joint management plan was needed to define joint goals and objectives for managing the four parks as a complex and to coordinate the development of facilities and operations.

About 1,100 to 1,200 acres of land and waters within the Yurok Reservation are federal lands within the parks that are administered by the National Park Service. Although the Yurok Tribe has established a tribal government and a memorandum of understanding exists between the parks and the Yurok Tribe, this joint plan will help solidify the relationship and promote better understanding and communication.

This joint management plan, when approved and adopted, will replace both the 1980 federal *General Management Plan* and the 1985 *State Redwoods Parks, General Plan* for these four parks.

